

for his students and community. I wish to congratulate Mr. Vranish for receiving the Communities in Schools Superintendent of the Year from the Texas Education Agency.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM CLAY FORD, JR.

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate William Clay Ford, Jr., on being a recipient of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit's "City of Detroit" Boneh Kehillah Award. Mr. Ford displays an unwavering devotion, as a business and community leader, to the people and the company that help define Detroit as the Motor City. It is my privilege to acknowledge Mr. Ford for his exemplary commitment to the growth of 21st century innovation and ushering in a renewed sense of community and pride to the citizens of Metro Detroit.

Among the many titles Mr. Ford has held throughout his career with Ford Motor Company, he is most notably recognized for serving as the President and CEO of Ford Motor Company and for his continuing role as executive chairman of the board of directors. Mr. Ford is a proven leader in the automotive industry and a conscientious environmentalist, a combination that allows him to promote technology that improves our lives while investing in Michigan's economic future and preserving our planet.

Mr. Ford displays a commitment to the spread of ideas and humanitarianism that reach far beyond the walls of the boardroom. He humbly utilizes his resources to give back to the community and takes an active role in organizations that promote regional economic revitalization such as Detroit Renaissance and the Detroit Economic Club. Mr. Ford inherited a name that is easily identified with Detroit, but it is his actions and personal convictions that ultimately define him as a spirited leader in our community.

I am honored to express my gratitude and admiration to Mr. Ford. He truly exemplifies "Boneh Kehillah" through his on-going efforts to foster a bold plan for the future of Metro Detroit and its workers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ford on this momentous occasion. May he know of our admiration and warmest wishes for continued success.

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow and disbelief over the

massacre at Virginia Tech. I join a country and Congress, especially my colleague from Virginia, that are still experiencing profound mourning and shock. I extend my deepest sympathies to the families and friends of all the Virginia Tech victims. We all continue to have the injured victims in our prayers.

I particularly want to recognize the heroism of Virginia Tech Professor, Liviu Librescu, who was gunned down while blocking his classroom door while he and his students were under attack, ultimately sacrificing his own life for those of his students.

Mr. Librescu, age seventy-six, was born in Romania and survived the Holocaust and his internment in a labor camp and Focșani ghetto. He and his family later survived the oppression of the Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceaucescu, and ultimately left Romania for Israel after then Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, personally intervened for the family's release. He came to Virginia Tech to teach in 1986.

Liviu Librescu was a celebrated scientist who was an expert in composite structures and aeroelasticity, which worked earned him NASA grants and other prestigious awards for his impressive work.

Madam Speaker. Liviu Librescu is to be buried imminently in his native Israel.

Yesterday, the Jewish community, in my native Brooklyn, volunteered to hold a service for Mr. Librescu in Borough Park and hundreds of Brooklyn residents gathered to pay their respects to Mr. Librescu and his widow Marlena Librescu, before they returned to Israel. The care and concern shown by the Brooklyn community for the Librescus, was truly remarkable.

I think New York State Assemblyman, Dov Hikind, said it best when he remarked about Mr. Librescu that, "not only was he a hero of the Jewish people, but a hero of all people".

May his remembrance be a blessing.

TRIBUTE TO BOB KEEGAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, after nearly 33 years of service with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Bob Keegan, deputy director of the Global Immunization Division, retired on March 30, 2007. Bob spent the first 11 years of his career in STD control, first as a public health advisor in Newark, NJ, and New York City; as STD regional training instructor in Atlanta; as deputy to Marty Goldberg in Houston, TX; and finally as the STD education specialist in Atlanta.

From 1985 to 1990, Bob coordinated CDC's Refugee Health Activities in Southeast Asia, helping to assure that refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos were immunized and treated for communicable diseases.

In 1991, Bob joined the newly formed Polio Eradication Activity, which had a staff of six and an annual budget of \$3 million. Since that time, the Activity has grown to become the Global Immunization Division, GID, with a staff of 100, and an annual budget of more than \$140 million. GID has expanded to include measles mortality reduction and regional elimination, and routine immunization strengthening. As the deputy director of GID, Bob has

helped CDC become a major force in the global polio eradication initiative. Bob is a recipient of the William C. Watson Jr. Medal of Excellence, Public Health Advisor of the Year Award from the Watsonian Society, the Philip Home Award from NIP, and the CDC Foundation Heroes Award.

Bob worked closely with the CDC Foundation, CDC colleagues, Rotary International, and partners to help establish the Polio Eradication Heroes Fund. This fund honors those injured or killed while working on vaccination campaigns with recognition and a cash award for their families. Bob also helped the CDC Foundation establish the Endowment for Global Health Priorities, providing a flexible funding source for essential services and equipment for CDC's global health activities. This endowment has been especially useful to support activities in the field.

Although not part of his official duties, Bob is the developer and administrator of CDC Chatter.net, an unofficial blog for CDC employees.

Bob is known as an innovative leader, a superb manager and creative trainer, and, at times, a rabble-rouser. He has served as an informal mentor to many and has gained deep respect and friendship from colleagues around the world. Not quite ready to put his feet up, Bob plans to ride his recumbent tricycle across the United States this summer before joining Gloria, his wife, in London where she will continue her career in school counseling.

I congratulate him on his achievements.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACH FOR AMERICA ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Teach for America Act and to ensure that this important program gets the Federal support it needs to expand and put more outstanding recent college graduates in our Nation's underserved schools. I thank my bipartisan cosponsors, Congressman CASTLE, Congresswoman DELAUNO, Congressman REGULA, and Congressman SARBANES, for their work on this issue.

Teach for America is a national corps of college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in public schools. Since its creation in 1990, more than 12,000 exceptional individuals have joined Teach for America and directly impacted the lives of over 2 million students in under-resourced schools across the country.

What's more, when these teachers leave the program, they often continue to work in education and public service. Sixty-three percent of Teach for America alumni remain in education as teachers, principals, school founders, and policy advisors. Others pursue work in fields such as law, medicine, and social work where they continue to increase opportunities for children living in low-income communities.

Madam Speaker, 17 years of experience have proven that Teach for America is a program that works. We in Congress have supported this program in the past. Our bill would cement our partnership with this important initiative by making Teach for America a federally-authorized program. It would help Teach

for American expand its recruitment, selection, training, and support of new teachers. It would put more enthusiastic, outstanding teachers in high-need schools. And it would help the program build new leaders in education and public service.

I urge my colleagues to join me to pass the Teach for America Act. Let's help this exceptional and proven program expand its reach and reduce teacher shortages in the areas where their services are so desperately needed.

HONORING CAMPBELLVILLE
UNIVERSITY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Campbellsville University on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration.

Founded in 1906 as the Russell Creek Academy, Campbellsville University's origins were concentrated on primary, secondary, teacher and pastor training. The following year, the academy added classes in music, art and a diploma program that included Greek, modern languages, algebra, and ancient history. Over the last 100 years, Campbellsville University has grown to over 2,200 students with 40 undergraduate programs and 9 graduate programs.

Throughout its first century, Campbellsville University has firmly established itself as a leading institution of Higher Christian Education in Kentucky, across the country, and in far corners of the world. The long tenure and continued success of the university is due in large part to an impressive fidelity to its mission: academic excellence solidly grounded in the liberal arts, personal growth, integrity, and fellowship.

I am honored to represent Campbellsville University in the United States Congress. The university exemplifies Christian Service through its consistent leadership in community affairs throughout the region. When new challenges arise in surrounding communities, Campbellsville University is always first to face the task and work toward solutions.

It is my great privilege to recognize Campbellsville University today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for 100 years of excellence, producing generations of talented, service-minded citizens who continue to make significant contributions to our world.

HONORING HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks, I would like to take a moment to send my prayers and condolences to the entire Virginia Tech community. The Nation and world are mourning with you. The United States Congress stands at your side.

As today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, I would like to extend special recognition to one of the 32 victims of this unbelievable catastrophe. Liviu Librescu, 76 at the time of his death, had known tragedy since childhood. When Romania joined forces with Nazi Germany in World War II, the young Librescu was interned in a labor camp, and then sent along with his family and thousands of other Jews to a central ghetto in the city of Focsani. Hundreds of thousands of Romanian Jews were killed by the collaborationist regime during the war, yet Liviu Librescu survived.

Liviu Librescu was an internationally respected aeronautics engineer and a lecturer at Virginia Tech for 20 years. He saved the lives of several students by blocking the gunman before he was gunned down in the shooting.

I know that Professor Librescu would join me in expressing solidarity with Jews across this Nation and around the world in honoring Holocaust Remembrance Day, or as it is known in Hebrew, Yom HaShoah.

My district, the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, is home to the largest concentration of survivors in the State of Illinois and perhaps in the country, and this day holds deep meaning for those individuals and the entire community.

Recent events in the Middle East and around the world underscore the importance of this day. Anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric and demonstrations continue in numerous countries. The Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has threatened to use nuclear weapons to wipe Israel off the face of the map.

With anti-Semitism on the rise, we must be reminded that "Never Again" is not a guarantee, but a pledge that we must uphold through education, dialogue, and determination. It also reminds us that we must continue to strengthen the U.S. commitment to the security of Israel. Moreover, we must redouble our efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

"Never Again" means that we must combat hate wherever it exists. While the Holocaust was a unique incident, a genocide is taking place right in front of our eyes in the Darfur region of Sudan. In February 2006 I traveled to Darfur where President Bush and the U.S. Congress have officially acknowledged "genocide" is taking place. The conflict has spilled across international borders and hundreds of thousands have fled into Chad. The window to provide security and hope is narrowing. According to the Commander of the African Union forces who briefed the participants of my Congressional Delegation in Darfur, "There is no sense of urgency outside."

As a Jew, I cannot sit idle while these atrocities continue to unfold in Darfur. The lessons from the Holocaust have taught us that we must never turn a blind eye to terror or discrimination. We must demand that our government hold those who carry out acts of needless brutality accountable. I believe that everyone should take a moment today to consider the role of the U.S. in the prevention and prosecution of genocide.

The Holocaust was the most horrific human atrocity the world saw during the last century and perhaps in the history of the planet. Millions of Jews and others were brutalized, raped, beaten, dehumanized, enslaved, robbed, and murdered. While it is hard to grasp how terrible those events must have been, what all of our children, and we must do

is to listen to the stories of those few remaining survivors of the Holocaust and ensure that their stories and their suffering are a permanent part of history.

Today we honor and mourn those who perished. We vow to live our lives in a way that pays tribute to their memory and ensures others will not suffer their fate.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF
ARMY SPECIALIST ROBERT MATTHEW
MCDOWELL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a brave, young man who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country while helping to spread freedom abroad.

Army SPC Robert Matthew McDowell, a young man whose family lives in Mobile, was on his second tour of duty in Iraq. He served as a military policeman and was based at Fort Drum, New York, with the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Matt recently returned to Iraq after being on leave for the birth of his son, Nathan Matthew McDowell. One of the last photos made of Matt was of him holding his newborn baby boy in his proud, loving arms. It is a photo that, no doubt, young Nathan Matthew will look back on with great pride in the years to come.

Unfortunately, Matt was serving as the gunner on a heavy-duty Army vehicle on patrol in Baghdad—a very dangerous assignment—when insurgents detonated an improvised explosive device.

Madam Speaker, at this difficult time, it is only appropriate for us to pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Matt McDowell.

His life and actions personify the very best America has to offer. I know his many friends and family, as well as his comrades in the United States Army, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to SPC Matt McDowell and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedom we enjoy but to a people who are in the demanding but important stages of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should also remember his wife, Daniella McDowell; his daughter, Madison McDowell; his son, Nathan McDowell; his father and stepmother, Kim and LaDonna McDowell; his mother, Kathy Jo Kallahan; his brother, Michael McDowell; his four stepbrothers, Neal Dickman, Andy Dickman, Tyler Dickman, and Grant Dickman; and his other relatives and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

Madam Speaker, Matt's daughter, Madison, recently wrote a poem about her Dad. With your permission, I would like to add it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: